

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5350

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PO
SUBJECT: PPD REACTS TO PROTEST TO AMBASSADOR

REF: LISBON 5154

SUMMARY. PPD SYG SA CARNEIRO CALLED ON AMBASSADOR TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER GOP COMPLAINT ABOUT AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE AT AZOREAN REGIONAL ASSEMBLY. HE ASSURED US PPD SUPPORTED AMBASSADOR'S VISIT. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION BUT SUGGESTED PPD NOT MAKE AN ISSUE OF MATTER. END SUMMARY.

1. LAST EVENING, AUGUST 6, PPD SYG SA CARNEIRO CALLED ON ME AT HIS REQUEST. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD FONMIN HAD COMPLAINED ABOUT MY PRESENCE IN AZORES AND THAT QUESTION OF PPD INVITATION HAD ARISEN DURING THE DISCUSSION. I ASSURED HIM PPD HAD NOT ENTERED INTO CONVERSATION AND THAT COMPLAINT HAD BEEN SOLELY DIRECTED AT MY PRESENCE AT REGIONAL ASSEMBLY. SA CARNEIRO SAID THAT SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIS PARTY, AND IN PARTICULAR ON BEHALF OF PPD AZOREAN LEADER MOTA AMARAL, HE WISHED TO CONVEY TO ME PPD'S PLEASURE THAT I HAD VISITED THE AZORES AND IN PARTICULAR, THAT I HAD ATTENDED THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY.

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2. I TOLD SA CARNEIRO I APPRECIATED HIS GESTURE. I

DID NOT CONSIDER THE GOP COMPLAINT A SERIOUS MATTER. SOURCES WITHIN GOP HAD ALREADY INDICATED PRIVATELY TO ME THAT AFFAIR HAD BEEN MISHANDLED AND I INTENDED TO LET THE MATTER DROP. I RECOGNIZED THERE MIGHT BE SOME REACTION WITHIN THE PPD, BUT I HOPED THEY WOULD NOT MAKE AN ISSUE OF IT. OUR INFORMATION WAS THAT GOP ACTION ORIGINATED THROUGH PRESSURE BY CERTAIN MILITARY FIGURES AROUND PRESIDENT WHO ARE LINKED WITH MELO ANTUNES. TO PURSUE THE MATTER WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE LIFE FOR MEDEIROS FERREIRA, WHO I LEARNED SUBSEQUENTLY HAD DEFENDED MY ACTIONS IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

3. SA CARNEIRO SAID HIS INFORMATION ON ORIGINS OF THE PROTEST CORRESPONDED WITH OURS. IN FACT, MAJOR PIMENTEL OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AND ONE OF THOSE LINKED WITH MELO ANTUNES, HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH HIGH RANKING PPD FIGURES BEFORE THE COMPLAINT WAS MADE. THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST INSTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT CEDING TO PRESSURE FROM THE POLITICALLY ORIENTED MILITARY. SOARES HAD BEEN OBLIGED AGAINST HIS WILL TO BRIEF MELO ANTUNES ON THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM. SA CARNEIRO FOUND THIS TROUBLESOME.

4. I ASSURED SA CARNEIRO THIS INCIDENT WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH OUR PLANS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE AZORES. IN FACT, I HAD USED THE OCCASION OF MY DISCUSSION WITH MEDEIROS FERREIRA TO CLARIFY THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE LOCAL AZOREAN AUTHORITIES ON OUR AID PROGRAMS, KEEPING THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT FULLY INFORMED.

5. SA CARNEIRO CONFIRMED THAT MOTA AMARAL WOULD HEAD AUTONOMOUS AZOREAN GOVERNMENT. AGREEMENT HAD NOW BEEN REACHED BETWEEN SOARES, PRESIDENT AND PPD TO NAME GENERAL GALVAO FIGUEREIDO (PRESENTLY ARMY VICE CHIEF OF STAFF) GOP MINISTER FOR THE AZORES. FIGUEREIDO HAD ACCEPTED ON CONDITION HE BE ALLOWED TO CHOOSE HIS OWN REPLACEMENT, WHO WOULD BE A LESSER KNOWN MILITARY FIGURE, BUT ONE IN WHOM CONFIDENTIAL

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FIGUEREIDO HAD COMPLETE CONFIDENCE. SA CARNEIRO ALSO TOLD ME GOP HAD AGREED TO NAME CAPTAIN TOMAZ ROSA (FORMER LABOR MINISTER) AS MINISTER FOR MADEIRA. ROSA HAD EARLIER IN THE DAY INDICATED TO ME AND TO LABOR ATTACHE THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT THIS ASSIGNMENT.

6. COMMENT: THE MOST SERIOUS ASPECT OF INCIDENT IS NOT ITS EFFECT VIRTUALLY NEGLIGIBLE ON US-GOP RELATIONS;

GOP NOW REALIZES IT WAS OVERZEALOUS AND IS TRYING IN DESCREET WAYS TO MAKE AMENDS. THE REAL WORRY IS THE INFLUENCE THAT SOME OF THE LEFT WING MILITARY AROUND EANES SEEM TO BE ABLE TO EXERCISE ON THE PRESIDENT, AND, EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THE UNWILLINGNESS OR INABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO COUNTER THIS INFLUENCE. THIS MAY ALL BE PART OF THE SHAKING DOWN PROCESS BUT IT IS AN ASPECT OF THE POLITICAL SCENE THAT WILL BEAR WATCHING.

7. THE FIGUEREIDO AND ROSA APPOINTMENTS ARE GOOD NEWS FOR THE AZORES AND MADEIRA, SINCE BOTH ARE CAPABLE MEN WITH CONSERVATIVE LEANINGS. PERHAPS NOT COINCIDENTALLY IT IS ALSO CONVENIENT (FOR DIFFERENT REASONS) FOR THE PRESIDENT AND THE GOP TO HAVE THEM OUT OF TOWN FOR THE TIME BEING. CARLUCCI

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